



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2006

*Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business**

Chair Harvey Klein called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Terrie McIntyre (Merck) made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Laboratory Certification Program:** Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated 2007 registration will be in March and will include new methods.

**PT program:** Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated WP-130 closes on 1/19/06. Should anyone have problems submitting the data on-line, **call ERA directly at 800-372-0122.** Drinking water WS samples were shipped last Monday. This study will close 2/23/06. If extra volume is needed, email Rachel immediately as she will need payment first. Quick study data for drinking water TOX must be faxed. Solid & Hazardous Waste letters for the make-up study will go out the week of 1/23. All NELAC labs that need all parameters will need to send a request letter. Going forward, NELAC labs may send a blanket request letter for all parameters.

**NELAC Update:** Phil Worby (QC Labs) reported PA 252 was approved by EQB and is scheduled to be published in January. All PA accredited labs will need to apply for accreditation/renewal within 6 months of the publication date. Dave Spies (Accutest) stated the EPA is pressuring the Office of Water to adopt NELAC as the accreditation program.

**INELA Update:** Dave Speis (Accutest) reported the INELA conference is in Chicago the week of 1/30/06. Classes will be held on Sunday 1/29. INELA is rewriting accreditation standards using ISO standards 17025 & 17011. These new standards will incorporate much of the old NELAC standards. The new language will go the INELA body for comment. Fees for use of the new standards would be paid by the user.

**NJQL's:** Dave Speis (Accutest) reported for the ELAC subcommittee. A subcommittee report will be sent to OQA within the next few weeks. A few of the issues addressed were The MDL is used as a performance standard which the subcommittee thinks is inappropriate. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated the PQL must be met to meet the certification criteria. This would result in a rejection of 50% of the data, hence for each parameter 50% of the labs would lose certification. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) pointed out that the result would be that most labs would only maintain partial certification for test group parameters (BNAs, Voas, etc.). Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) stated the use of 5X MDL for PQLs is an arbitrary number. Dave Speis (Accutest) asked for a defined limit of accuracy and precision. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated it will be up to the programs to decide how they will use the NJQLs.

Frank Medora (Aqua PA) asked what will happen if the EPA changes the MDL definition. Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated then NJ will revisit the PQLs..

**Bioassay:** No report

**Sludge (Biosolids):** Anthony Pilawski (DEP BPR) stated the SQAR public hearing was held on 12/19/05. The comment period ended 1/6/06. The rule is scheduled to be adopted by 4/26/06.

**Communications and OQA Website:** Tom Chepiga is the OQA/IT contact for webpage update. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) asked that 2005 ELAC meeting minutes be updated on the webpage. *Per Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) updates are posted but it is necessary to ensure your PC checks for updates: Go to tools, select Internet Options, under Temporary Internet files select settings, select check for new versions of stored pages.*

## **Old Business**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water / PWTA:** John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) reported the standards for Arsenic will change to 5 PPB on 1/23/06. The standard for lead changed to 5 PPB with the GWQS update on 11/7/05. From Midnight on 1/23/06 until 10AM the DEP database will be updated. John asked labs not to submit data during this time period. John stated the data form changed as of 12/28/05. See attached. John is the PM for the new database system. A pilot program will be run the 1<sup>st</sup> week in February and includes 8 labs of various sizes. Implementation is scheduled for March 1. There will be a new web-based report format. Perchlorate has not been proposed yet, it is under management review. The Drinking Water Quality Institute recommended that Perchlorate be adopted at an MCL of 5 PPB. The suggested method was 314.0. Perchlorate will be an active parameter requiring immediate notification. Data shows Arsenic is present in Warren and Sussex County. It will be proposed to require Arsenic monitoring in those counties. The proposal will also specify flushing time and location: 2 minutes at the tank, 5 minutes at the upper tap.

Mike Barrett (APL) suggested the sample should be collected immediately (without flushing) from the tap as this is more representative of the drinking water. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) stated the regulation was written to reflect the quality of the well water not the drinking water.

Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) stated the new Total coliform forms are coming soon. The summary form will be used for routing reporting (taken & negatives). This will be only used by water systems that take more than 6 samples per month. All others will use the --- form. A policy is coming regarding radionuclide reporting. Linda stated the SIDWIS database automatically sends letters for any missing data. If anyone gets a notice of violation, call the Bureau and they will submit information. Linda also stated that Perchlorate approval is through the EPA not the Bureau.

Bernie Wilk of the Drinking Water Quality Institute stated they wish to establish limits on 7 compounds: Carbon Tetrachloride, Chlordane, 1,2-dichloroethane, Formaldehyde, PCBs, and Tetrachloroethylene. He asked for any volunteer labs to submit MDL, Spike Level, and calibration curve information. A form was distributed with a requested return date of 1/20/06.

**Site Remediation:** No Report

### **New Business**

***NJ Groundwater Quality Standards:*** Marc Ferko (NJDEP-OQA) stated 8270 SIM will be acceptable to meet the PQLs listed in the standard. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated that 8270 SIM will be added in the new accreditation cycle. Labs will need SOPs and DOCs. PTs will not be issued. Mark Ferko stated enforcement of the listed PQLs varies by the enforcement office. Dave Speis requested that Mary Ann Kuserk (NJDEP-SRWMP) attend the next meeting.

***2005 Field Sampling Procedures Manual:*** Tom Cady (HC-V) asked who is the contact within the department for consultants wishing to obtain analyze immediate certification. Mark Ferko nominated himself.

***Lab Certification Fee Proposal:*** No discussion

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on February 9 2006 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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